



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Thicket National Preserve
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News Release

For Immediate Release: May 3, 2016
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Big Thicket National Preserve Summer 2016 Ranger-led Program Schedule

KOUNTZE, Texas, May 3, 2016– The staff of Big Thicket National Preserve invites everyone to explore the thicket by taking advantage the many ranger-led programs being offered in the months of May, June, July and August.

From canoe trips to a black bear presentation and night hikes through the thicket, park rangers will offer a variety of free programs. Some programs require participants to pre-register. Be sure to consult the Spring/Summer 2016 – Ranger-led Program Schedule. For detailed information on these programs visit our website at www.nps.gov/bith/planyourvisit/calendar.htm or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BigThicketNPS.

Throughout 2016 we are inviting visitors to “Explore Your Thicket.” This 100-mile challenge is part of the preserve’s National Park Service Centennial Celebration. During the 12 months leading up to the 100th anniversary of the creation of the National Park Service (August 25, 2016), the staff at Big Thicket National Preserve invites you to rediscover your national park. This program challenges visitors to travel 100/50/25 miles, depending on age, through the preserve during our Centennial year (August, 2015 through August, 2016). Participants can paddle, hike, run, jog, travel on horseback, and even trek off-trail through the thicket. As you explore, you track your mileage, and once you reach the targeted miles, contact preserve staff so we can welcome you to the Centennial Club. We can also help you track your miles! Simply call the visitor center and tell us what you’ve accomplished.

Looking for other ways to participate in the Big Thicket’s Centennial year? We encourage everyone to participate in our “Share Your Thicket Centennial Photo Contest” while exploring the preserve. Park visitors are invited to submit photos via Instagram for entry into a year-long contest using the hashtag

#BigThicketPhotoContest. Monthly winners will be chosen in three categories and displayed in our park visitor center, with an overall winner chosen in the fall of 2016.

More information about all of Big Thicket National Preserve's 2016 Centennial activities is available at <http://www.nps.gov/bith/getinvolved/centennial-activities.htm>.

Big Thicket National Preserve is located in southeast Texas, near the city Beaumont and 75 miles northeast of Houston. The preserve consists of nine land units and six water corridors encompassing more than 112,000 acres. The Big Thicket, often referred to as a “biological crossroads,” is a transition zone between four distinct vegetation types – the moist eastern hardwood forest, the southwestern desert, the southeastern swamp, and the central prairies. Species from all of these different vegetation types come together in the thicket, exhibiting a variety of vegetation and wildlife that has received national interest.

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About the National Park Service: More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 409 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.



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